

members who have helped me, the House of Representatives and our nation. I am deeply appreciative of their work and hope that God continues to bless each of them and the United States of America.

TRIBUTE TO ARNOLD CENTER
PRESIDENT CHARLES MARKEY

HON. JOHN R. MOOLENAAR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. MOOLENAAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Charles Markey, the President of the Arnold Center, upon his retirement on December 31, 2016. Mr. Markey has made many contributions to Midland and the great state of Michigan.

Mr. Markey attended Central Michigan University, where he excelled as a member of the football team. After graduating in 1974 with a Bachelor of Science degree, Mr. Markey joined IBM. From 1974 to 2004 he held several different titles and went on to become the Vice President of Solution Sales before becoming a partner at IM1 Capital Group, LLC. During this time he was inducted into the CMU Football Hall of Fame.

In 2009, Mr. Markey became the president of the Arnold Center. The Center has since become a large employer in Midland and has aided in giving back to the community in a multitude of ways. Most importantly, it has enhanced the quality of life for those with disabilities and donates thousands of hours of community service. During his tenure, Mr. Markey has held fast to the mission and vision of the Arnold Center and has helped countless individuals who have sought his guidance. I have seen firsthand the dedication and service Mr. Markey has given to our community. I thank him and wish him luck as he begins this new chapter of his life.

On behalf of the Fourth Congressional District of Michigan, I am honored today to recognize Charles Markey for his dedication to the Midland community.

TRIBUTE TO YOUNG STAFF MEMBERS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF THE 18TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF TEXAS AND THE UNITED STATES

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as Members of Congress we know well, perhaps better than most, how blessed our nation is to have in reserve such exceptional young men and women who will go on to become leaders in their local communities, states, and the nation in the areas of business, education, government, philanthropy, the arts and culture, and the military.

We know this because we see them and benefit from their contributions every day. Many of them work for us in our offices as junior staff members, congressional fellows, or interns and they do amazing work for and on

behalf of the constituents we are privileged to represent.

Mr. Speaker, I believe there is no higher calling than the call to serve a cause larger than ourselves. That is why I ran for public office. I was inspired to serve by President Kennedy who said, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country," and by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who said: "Everybody can be great because anybody can serve. . . . You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."

By this measure, there are several other great young men and women who served as volunteers this year in my offices. They may toil in obscurity but their contributions to the constituents we serve are deeply appreciated. That is why today I rise to pay tribute to five extraordinary young persons for their service to my constituents in the 18th Congressional District of Texas and to the American people. They are: Katherine Jenkins from Texas Tech University; Michaellette Haywood from Georgia State University; Kai Scates from Wiley College; Keera Ingram from Howard University; and Lisa Oguike from the Madeira School.

Mr. Speaker, the energy, intelligence, and idealism these wonderful young people brought to my office and those interning in the offices of my colleagues help keep our democracy vibrant. The insights, skills, and knowledge of the governmental process they gain from their experiences will last a lifetime and prove invaluable to them as they go about making their mark in this world.

Because of persons like them the future of our country is bright and its best days lie ahead. I wish them all well.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful that such thoughtful committed young men and women can be found working in my office, those of my colleagues, and in every community in America. Their good works will keep America great, good, and forever young.

RECOGNIZING SHERIFF WENDELL HALL UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE SANTA ROSA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Sheriff Wendell Hall upon the occasion of his retirement from the Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Department. Sheriff Hall has dedicated more than 35 years to serving his community through law enforcement.

Sheriff Hall attended Ernest Ward High School in Walnut Hill, Florida. He continued his education at Pensacola State College and at Troy State University where he graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice.

Upon completion of college, his career began in 1981 as a Correction's Officer with the Escambia County Sheriff's Office before he transferred to Law Enforcement in 1982; serving as a Patrol Deputy, Narcotics Investigator/Supervisor, and Administrative Supervisor. He was promoted during this time to the rank of Corporal and again to Sergeant, eventually

becoming a Certified Hostage Negotiator, Firearms Instructor, and Field Training Officer. During his tenure at the Escambia Sheriff's Office, he received special award recognitions for "Outstanding Service to the Community," in 1984; a Meritorious Service Award, in 1992; as well as numerous other honors for his dedication to protecting our community.

In 2000, Sheriff Hall began serving the people of Santa Rosa County when he was elected Sheriff. He has received numerous recognitions for his service including, but not limited to, Elk Lodge Number 2787 "Law Enforcement Officer of the Year" for 2002 through 2003; Pace Rotary Club "Rotarian of the Year for Exceptional Dedication and Commitment" for 2003 through 2004 and 2006 through 2007; Florida Council on Crime and Delinquency "Law Enforcement Distinguished Service Award" 2003; and Pace Chamber of Commerce 2015 "Man of the Year Award."

In addition to his career in law enforcement, he has been a shining role model in his community. He currently serves on the Santa Rosa Kids House, as the Board of Directors Chairman, the Florida Sheriff's Association District 1 Board of Directors, the Vets to VA Clinic Committee, and as a member of the First Judicial Circuit Law Enforcement Association, along with other countless volunteer positions.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Sheriff Wendell Hall for his dedication and service to Northwest Florida. My wife Vicki and I wish him and his wife, Karen; his children, Lisa, Dana, Kayla, Brandon, Amanda, Kenneth, and Megan; and his fourteen grandchildren all the best as they embark on this next journey in their lives.

RECOGNIZING DR. BILL GORSKI

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Bill Gorski who is retiring from SwedishAmerican after serving for 16 years as its President and CEO. For decades, he has aided the public honorably by creating life-saving opportunities for communities in Illinois and Wisconsin.

Under Dr. Gorski's guidance, SwedishAmerican built a major acute care hospital, a freestanding outpatient cancer center in Rockford, a network of 30 primary care and multispecialty clinics, and the region's largest home health care agency. He has worked to improve health services in the community of Belvidere as well, by acquiring and renovating a medical center that now provides ambulatory services and 24-hour emergency care.

Dr. Gorski has a demonstrated history of going above and beyond. Through its foundation, SwedishAmerican has helped rebuild the neighborhood surrounding its main campus. Twenty-six homes have been built and an additional 120 houses and two apartment buildings have been renovated. SwedishAmerican has also cooperated with Rosecrance Health Network by investing more than \$5 million a year in inpatient behavioral health services within the Rockford region. His inspiring work

has given our communities a healthier future where citizens can have reliable health services.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Dr. Gorski for his dedication to improving the quality of care our citizens receive when they need it most. I congratulate him again on his well-earned retirement and wish him luck in his future endeavors.

HONORING FORMER SENATE
MAJORITY LEADER MIKE HEWITT

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate former Washington State Senate Majority Leader Mike Hewitt on his retirement. Senator Hewitt had a successful business career before dedicating his time and energies to advocating for the people of southeast Washington.

He is an outstanding leader in the state legislature, and is respected by both sides of the aisle for his generous spirit and warmth. His business acumen meant he brought a valuable insight to public policy, owe we have all come to appreciate.

We have been so blessed to have Senator Hewitt doing everything he can to make sure the people of southeast Washington are his top priority, particularly veterans and the Hispanic community. Congratulations again Mike. Enjoy your retirement—you deserve it.

HONORING JIM HARRIS OF
WAUSAU, WI FOR HIS SERVICE
TO OTHERS

HON. SEAN P. DUFFY

OF WISCONSIN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand before you today to recognize Mr. Jim Harris of Wausau, Wisconsin for his exceptional service to others.

Mr. Harris worked for more than 30 years in education. First, as a teacher in the Wisconsin Indian Teacher Corps, where he taught children of the Ho Chunk Tribe, and later as one of the first male kindergarten teachers in Wisconsin. Along his journey in education, Mr. Harris also spent two decades as a school administrator and an activist for public health.

During his many years of service in education, Mr. Harris got to know the children of Hmong Refugees who fled war in their home country to seek a better life in Wisconsin. Our state has a vibrant Hmong community that Mr. Harris has grown close to. He founded We Help War Victims, a nonprofit organization, with his wife, Marty, also a public school educator. Founded over 30 years ago, We Help War Victims has been working with refugee families in the Wausau, Wisconsin area, providing dozens of Lao schools with their first libraries, and helping families receive access to medical care.

Since 2006, the Harris' organization has been working with villagers in Laos to destroy land mines, bombs, rockets, mortars, and

other unexploded ordnance. Mr. and Mrs. Harris's example directly inspired me to fight for this cause in Congress and their advice has directly affected the focus of my efforts. Countless farmers and families across Laos live in safer communities because of Mr. Harris's work and my community in Wisconsin has been strengthened by the work he and his wife do through We Help War Victims.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today to congratulate Mr. Harris on his accomplishments and work on behalf of others. His selfless demeanor in which he answers the call to serve in our district is truly valued.

JEFF MILLER AND RICHARD
BULMENTHAL VETERANS
HEALTH CARE AND BENEFITS
IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2016

SPEECH OF

HON. JODY B. HICE

OF GEORGIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 6416, the Jeff Miller and Richard Blumenthal Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2016. I commend Chairman MILLER's and Congressman ROE's work on this important legislation.

I'm pleased to say that language from one of my bills, the Protecting Veterans' Educational Choice Act, is included in this bill as section 415. This section will require the VA to inform student-veterans—on the front-end, before they spend a dime of their Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits—about agreements between schools regarding the transfer of credits.

Despite having access to Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits, many veterans still end up having to take out student loans to cover the full cost of their education. In many cases, this is due to situations where veterans aren't aware that credits earned at one institution will not transfer to another school until after they have already expended a significant portion of their benefits.

By requiring that the VA provide veterans with this information on the front-end of the process, this legislation will address flaws in the system where veterans—many of whom are first-generation college students—are surprised by this feature of higher education.

Ultimately, decisions regarding how and where to use these benefits are rightfully left to those who served our country. Our veterans earned their benefits, and this bill will empower our veterans by arming them with the information and resources that they need to make the best decisions for themselves and their families. I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 6416.

CONGRATULATING THE MOTHER
MCAULEY VOLLEYBALL TEAM
ON THEIR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Mother McAuley Liberal Arts

High School volleyball team—the Mighty Macs—on being the first team ever to be named National Champions by USA Today, Max Preps, and Prep Volleyball.

Their history-making season included finishing strong with a 32 game winning streak that took them all the way through the Class 4A State Championship Tournament. After defeating Minooka in the final game, they secured their program's record 15th state championship, their first since 2013.

In compiling their near-perfect 40–1 record, Head Coach Jen DeJard's team was taken to three sets just seven times. Four of Mother McAuley's athletes were named to the Daily Southtown's 2016 All Area Team, a list that includes just 12 players. Mother McAuley's volleyball team has won at least one state championship in each of the past five decades, a long tradition of excellence.

I would like to wish the best of luck in the next season to the returning players and coaches, and continued success to the departing seniors, several of whom will play their next season at colleges including Notre Dame, Appalachian State, Ferris State, and Lipscomb.

I ask you to join me in congratulating the Mother McAuley Volleyball team on their excellent season and their historic success on the national stage.

HONORING AND REMEMBERING
TIMOTHY HOY

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, as both this Congress and the year come to a close, it is with heavy heart that I rise to honor, and remember, a kind and exemplary citizen whom we recently lost. Timothy Hoy, of Denton County, Texas, passed away the week of October 31st at the age of 55. Hoy was known to many for being extraordinarily active in Republican Party politics in Denton County, as well as at the state and national level. He was, as the Denton County Republican Party publicly remembered, "truly a legend in political circles;" but, more importantly, he was also "always kind, gentle and gracious to all." His profound friendliness was present to anyone he met, and it was a pleasure to get to know him over the years as someone who loved and served his community.

Originally from upstate New York, and having received his college education at the University of Dayton in Ohio, Hoy made Texas his home. In the late 1980s he began to become active in Republican politics in Denton County and became a precinct chairman, a role for which he would eventually be named Precinct Chair of the Year in 2001. He steadfastly served as an elections judge from the 1990s into the 2010s. His service also extended to being on the State Republican Executive Committee for eight years, from 2002 to 2010, and he received an award for his achievements in that role. His zeal for civic engagement for the betterment of his community was unparalleled.

Hoy's dedication and love for his fellow citizens in Texas, and desire to improve the lives of those around him, led him to work exceptionally hard and rigorously for the causes and